

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/608,735

Examiner

Kambiz Zand

Applicant(s)

PAGEL, MARTIN J.

Art Unit

2132

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04/20/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-37.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 June 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 04/20/05-enclosed
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Kambiz Zand

*[Signature]* 04/27/05

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/20/2005 has been entered.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this section can be found in the prior office action.
3. The prior office actions are incorporated herein by reference. In particular, the observations with respect to claim language, and response to previously presented arguments.
4. Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 15, 16, 22, 23 and 28 have been amended.
5. Claims 1-37 are pending.

### **Information Disclosure Statement PTO-1449**

6. The Information Disclosure Statement submitted by applicant on 04/20/2005 has been considered. Please see attached PTO-1449.

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- Rosner et al (6,636,968 B1) disclose multi-node encryption and key delivery where a partial key is created for each destination device to be used as decryption key.
- Cordery et al (6,295,359 B1) disclose method and apparatus for distributing keys to secure device such as a postage meter by generating a master private keys and master public keys.
- Brand (6,061,670 A) discloses multi registered postage meters using digital token.
- Whitehouse (6,005,945 A) disclose system and method for dispensing postage based on telephonic or web multi-transactions using a secure central computer having a secure database of the users where the postage requests are authenticated using a secret key.
- Baker et al (5,812,666 A) disclose cryptographic key management and validation system using a plurality of secure domains where records of key status and master keys are recorded and archive.

### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments filed 04/20/2005 have been fully considered and they are persuasive.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

8. Claims 1-37 are allowed.

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Heiden disclose a system for purchasing a book of digital stamps where a digital signature is generated by signing some of the postage stamp data and where cryptographic key storage is centralized in one location called data center. Heiden, , Baker, Whitehouse, Brand, Cordery and Rosner 's system and method singly or in combination **are in contrast** with specific steps of applicant's invention where indicia generating devices are divided into groups that corresponds to a respective geographic/postage or global destination and where assigning a set of verification keys from among a plurality of verification keys; and distributing to each one of the establishments in the respective geographic destinations via the network, the set of verification keys and associated key ID's that were encrypted as a function of the geographic destination associated with the establishment; and assigning to each group of indicia generating devices a secret key from a set of secret keys and distributing the assigned secret key also to each indicia generating device in each group of the generated indicia devices as recited in **independent claims 1, 9, 15, 22 and 28 and in the light of the other limitations set forth in the claims.**

10. **Dependent claims 2-8, 10-14, 16-21, 23-27 and 29-37** as being dependent upon Independent claims 1, 9, 15, 22 and 28 and having additional allowable features therein.

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### Conclusion

11. Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "comments on statement of reasons for allowance."

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kambiz Zand whose telephone number is (571) 272-3811. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (8:00-5:00). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (571) 272-3799. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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04/27/2005

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